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CLASSIFICATION <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> Approved For Release <b>8756R0006</b>		INFORMATION REPORT 5-00756R0006		SERIAL NO 0020002-2	
SECRETARY INFORMATION DATE OF INFORMATION 22 September 1952		OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE ONE FORM 3820-2 (REV 12-51)		373-C-52 DATE OF REPORT 29 September 1952	
TO U. S. Naval Attache, London		SOURCE Personal Observation		EVALUATION D-3	
SUBJECT <b>LULAKOV, Nikandr, Captain (2nd Rank) - Assistant Naval Attache of the USSR accredited to London - report of dinner conversation with</b>					

BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN PAGE ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY)  
Report of conversational exchanges with a member of the Soviet naval attache staff (London) in the course of a four-hour restaurant dinner session which the writer spent as the guest of the Soviet official.

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Ref: (a) ONI(DNI) Secret ltr - ONI Notice 003820 Op-322HZE dtd 10 September, 1952

1. At a luncheon session of the Association of Junior Assistant Naval Attaches held in London on 4 September, 1952, the writer found himself for the second such occasion seated next to subject officer. In the course of a limping conversation I asked Lulakov if he had found any good Russian food in the London restaurants; he said no, he preferred to eat at home, but that if he did come across anything of the sort he would let me know--that he would like for me to be his guest. On Friday morning, September 19th, Lulakov telephoned me and asked if I would dine with him at 8 p.m. Sunday, September 22, at the Hungaria Restaurant on Lower Regent Street, and I accepted. This memorandum constitutes a record of our conversation on that occasion. For the sake of convenience and clarity our exchanges are arranged partly in summary form and partly in question-and-answer, to which presentation a session with Captain Lulakov seems peculiarly adaptable. Subject is a difficult person to converse with because, in spite of the fact that his English has been noted to improve since he reported here, his very limited command of the language still dictates the employment of the simplest vocabulary and makes necessary many repetitions and rephrasings. At most times when he is speaking English Captain Lulakov appears to be in actual pain in his groping for words and meanings. This liability, however, has been found by the writer to constitute an advantage, because when Lulakov speaks English there is never any doubt what he is attempting to get at, all verbal subtleties being beyond him. As a final preliminary note it might be observed that, in accordance with the custom of AJANA, members address one another by first names or by nicknames; accordingly throughout this evening Captain Lulakov was "Nik" and I was "John".

2. Lulakov explained that he had selected the Hungaria Restaurant because he had been unable to locate a good Russian one and Hungarian food was similar. When the writer appeared,

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Lulakov's first concern was to get the vodka order set up. No Russian vodka was to be had, only Polish; this was produced in a bucket of ice, and Lulakov was solicitous that I start doing it justice right away. My first thought was that this was an obvious softening-up process for the quiz to follow, and such it might have been in part; but it was soon evident that his main concern was to get started on the refreshment himself, and once underway he didn't waste much more time on persuading me to keep up. By the end of the evening the vodka fifth was finished, and most of the job had fallen to Lulakov; the only evidence he showed of it was in a slight relaxing of his habitual attitude of painful concentration.

3. Our first exchanges had to do with personal histories. He settled my place and date of birth and the occupation of my parents (apparently sufficiently proletarian not to put him off), and I asked the same information of him. He was born, he said, in 1912 in a country village about 25 miles from Leningrad, one of a family of three boys and two girls. His father was a construction worker until his retirement in 1940 on account of age; his mother came of farming stock; they now live in Leningrad with his older brother. Lulakov entered the "Naval Academy" in Leningrad in 1928, where he stayed for three years, and then went on to another school in Sevastopol. Of his service career the only details that I could establish were that he served at one time in Vladivostok; that he spent some time in America during the war as a Soviet Navy representative in Portland, Oregon, in the course of which assignment he also visited Los Angeles and Vancouver; and that his last duty before coming to London was as commander of a division of frigates.

4. It then being my turn to be questioned, I gave him his chance. Did I attend our Naval Academy? No, I was a Reservist. Where did I go to school? What did I study? How did it happen that a student of literature and a "professor" was a naval officer? When did I become an officer? Did I go back to the University after the war? (These questions I regarded as reasonably harmless and I answered them with reasonable accuracy, it being my object at this point to build up some "credit" for my own further questions; I also attempted at this stage to establish a reasonable basis for the general ignorance on technical naval matters to which I find it convenient on such occasions to confess.) Did I volunteer to come back? No, as an active member of the Naval Reserve I was simply called back. Did I object to this? No, it was what I expected and was prepared for as a Reservist.

5. I then resumed the initiative, and I managed to retain it until the crude ideological discussion reported below. (Q) What did the Soviet Navy maintain in the way of a reserve organization? (A) Every sailor on release from service was subject to further training and maintained in an active-reserve status for ten years. (Q) Did the USSR have a Marine Corps similar to that of the United States? (A) Not at present activated, and at no time have Marines been actually assigned to Soviet ships; during the War picked recruits from all branches of the service were brought together in the Naval Infantry organization, which constituted what amounted to an elite corps and figured prominently in the fighting around Leningrad and Sevastopol; at the end of the War these troops were returned to their various branches, where they maintain their Naval Infantry training as auxiliary duty and are subject to being called out and again grouped as Naval Infantry specialists; at certain periods and in certain places (unnamed) Naval Infantry brigades are maintained for training purposes with their personnel subject to frequent rotation between their regular service assignments and the Naval Infantry activities.

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6. (Q) What kind of duties had he (Lulakov) carried out aboard ship? (A) Gunnery; Navigation--his favorite. (Q) Had he ever been a Communications Officer? (A) No; in the Russian Navy, shipboard communications were the responsibility of non-commissioned specialists; an officer assigned to such duty would have charge of the communications activities of several ships. (Q) Which of the Fleet divisions of the Soviet Navy would he prefer for an assignment? (A) He didn't care so long as he was at sea; he counted himself a good officer at sea but not so good in London.

7. (Q) How did he like his present duty? (A) It was all right, but both he and his wife would be glad to get home. (Q) Did they have any children? (A) Two--a boy of eight and a girl of five; the girl was here, but the boy was at school in Russia, living with the mother's parents, since they had no suitable school here. (Q) Had he seen anything of England? (A) Very little because they had to keep within the 25-mile limit. (Q) Didn't they have any sort of holiday place on the coast? (A) No, nothing at all on any water whatsoever; their embassy had twice requested that some sort of access to a beach area be established for them but had been turned down, and there they had decided to let the matter rest. They did, however, have a "rest home" outside the 25-mile limit where they could go with their families for a holiday. It was situated about 60 miles southwest of London, in a house that had once been a "Lord's palace" which their embassy had bought. It was near a village the name of which he couldn't remember but it had a telephone exchange the first part of which sounded like "hawk" (Note: Identified as "Hawkhurst", near Winchester). It had some grounds around it, but no water for swimming or boating. About 18 customers could be accommodated at a time; meals were ordinarily taken together in the dining room, but private dinner parties could also be arranged.

8. At this point my host made a gesture to indicate that he wanted to say something and needed a little time to formulate it. What he came out with, all in one sentence, was as follows: Why is your country saying Russia wants war when she wants peace while your country is building bases around Russia and making threats like Mainbrace and putting the Nazis back in power, and why does your country not live up to the Potsdam agreement? I countered with testimony to the general goodwill which the USA bore toward Russia at the end of the War, and attempted to review the process by which the USSR, by shutting herself off and reverting to her practice of subversion and obstruction, had forced the West to the present course. As to the Potsdam agreement, I offered the observation that, since the time when this agreement was made, certain other potent factors had come to play, such as the fate of Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Lulakov would have none of this--the people's governments of those countries had been chosen by their own people etc.--and proceeded to expound the straight Party line in the simplest terms: The West, particularly the United States government under Truman (not the people as a whole, he wanted me to understand) was preparing for war and acting in a very provocative manner toward the USSR and her "allies". The USSR, on the other hand, wanted only peace and the opportunity to repair her war damage and proceed with her peaceful construction projects like the Volga-Don Canal. If we in America had only experienced first-hand the destructiveness of war we would know that another war was the last thing the Russian people wanted. The American government kept up its preparations for war and prolonged the war in Korea because it was afraid of an economic collapse if war industries stopped. Talk of Russia's wanting war was American propaganda. Why did I believe this propaganda?

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9. I asked my host if he had read Karl Marx. Yes, he had studied Marx; and before I could get him back on the track he demonstrated his very rudimentary understanding of the Marxian version of class history ("Slave, Federal, Capitalist, Communist"), and his familiarity with the term "dialectical materialism." He apparently did not understand the meaning of "dialectic", however, and had never heard of Hegel. When I asked him what was going to succeed Communism when it had had its day and the dialectical process still carried on, he explained to me patiently that Communism was the End of Civilization, with nothing further to follow; and he was completely unaware of the irony of his statement. I pointed out that the real point I was leading up to was that no part of the world outside the Soviet Union could feel safe from Soviet aggression in the light of the basic Communist doctrine itself, which called for Communist world domination etc. Lulakov said that I did not understand, the Soviet people wanted only peace. I observed that whatever the Soviet people wanted, it was really what the Politburo wanted that mattered; Lulakov replied that the Soviet people loved (sic) the Politburo because they knew it worked always in their interests.

10. Lulakov chose to change the subject. Why did America not agree to outlaw the atom bomb? I brought up the matter of the seeming impossibility of setting up a proper system of inspection; his answer was to the effect that it was necessary to agree to outlaw the atom bomb before any talk of inspections was undertaken.

11. I asked Lulakov if he honestly believed that America was the aggressor in Korea; well, he didn't think he could say that exactly, but he was ready to declare that the South Koreans had been the aggressor. What did he think of the fiction of the Chinese "volunteers"? He let this go, seeming by this time to have wearied of politics.

12. The last line of discussion my host introduced before we left the restaurant had to do with the nature and extent of my official "contacts". Did I visit many British ships? No, I did not. Did I belong to any clubs? None worth mentioning. Did I know many British naval officers? Several. What kind of sport was I interested in? What games did I like to play? Did I know of a table-tennis club to which I could introduce him and where he could play?

13. The general tenor of our long session was fairly friendly. Lulakov allowed himself several moments of obvious exasperation over my capitalistic stubbornness, but he invariably caught himself before he reached the stage of out-and-out rudeness and usually managed to finish off any show of temper with a grin. Only once did he seem to come close to crossing the line, and this was just before we left the table: I asked him what he hoped he would get for his next assignment, and his verbatim answer was "The Far East Fleet, so that I can meet you first"--a remark that I considered interesting on more than one count; and even this he managed to turn off as something of a show of wit.

14. The bill for the evening came to five pounds seven shillings, on top of which Lulakov left a one-pound tip. I drove him to his apartment house in the Lancaster Gate district, and when he left he promised me an early opportunity to sample his wife's Russian cooking.

15. In conclusion, I would offer the following observations on my evening with Captain Lulakov. I would judge his motives in arranging the occasion to have been fivefold: (a) he wished to sound me out and determine my value to him as a contact; (b) he wanted a

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chance to give forth on his version of the Party line to an American naval officer; (c) he felt obliged to make some show of social mingling with his ears open and to make some dent in his expense account in order to demonstrate to his superiors that he is not entirely useless along these lines; (d) he actually does feel some dim stirring of the social instinct and wanted an evening away from his familiar associates with all expenses paid; and most important (e) he wanted to set up a basis for using me as a means to broaden his field of contacts in London. I judged that he selected me because I have on two occasions sat next to him at luncheon and have attempted to carry on a conversation with him, which contact established me in his eyes as the nearest thing to an acquaintance among the Assistant U.S. Naval Attaches. Apparently I have managed to convince him that my technical knowledge of naval matters is too limited to be worth much exploiting, because on this occasion he left such subjects alone after a few moves in this direction. I should judge, however, that he still considers me potentially useful in a social way, and his further maneuvers in this direction will be awaited with interest.

16. This report has been presented in this detail not for the sake of the specific information it contains, which is recognized to be slight, but for its value as a personality study of the individual concerned, and as a picture of a Soviet Intelligence officer in action.



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Prepared:

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Forwarding Officer's Comments: I consider this a most interesting and valuable report. There have been for a few instances of such personal contact and discussion which have come to my knowledge here in London; the dinner herein described may be a definite part of a current Soviet move for closer contact with American representatives through social channels. In the last six months there has been no social activity by the Soviet Naval Attache Office except an evening of motion pictures and supper which was reported by this office in July.

Forwarded:

*W. E. DIBBLE*

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Rear Admiral, USN